GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:560
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
PENDING PASSPORT APPLICATIONS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;BRAHMANAND MANDAL;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)Whether the Government`s attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Pakistani President that he did not promise to close terrorist camps and to stop infiltration from across the Line of Control;

(b)If so, whether the Government have consulted the countries who had conveyed the promise of Pakistani President to India;

(c)If so, the reaction of these countries thereto; and

(d)the diplomatic efforts being made by the Government to meet the situation arising out of the shifting stand of Pakistan on the above issues?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) On June 22, 2002 Pakistan President General Musharraf during his interview to the Newsweek, tried to backtrack on his commitment to stop cross border infiltration on a permanent basis. He claimed that he gave no assurance that `for years nothing will happen` across the LoC or that he made any commitment on closing the terrorist camps.

(b) & (c) Consequently, Us State Department Spokesman unambiguously clarified that, contrary to what was reported in the Newsweek interview General Musharraf has indeed given the assurance to Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage on stopping cross border infiltration on a permanent basis. It was also stated that General Musharraf had reiterated his commitments of putting an end to cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, to President George Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell during their conversations. The UK also rebutted the claims made by General Musharraf in his interview.

(c) Government are firmly resolved to continue taking all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan`s sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India.